

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY OSLO

USMISSION NATO

S E C R E T MADRID 5771

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, NATO,SP,BE

SUBJECT: SPAIN AND NATO

REF: BURSELS 7335

1. REGARDING REPORT CONTAINED IN PARA 5 REFTTEL, THE ARTICLE IN QUESTION IS THAT REPORTED IN PARA 4 OF MADRID'S 5473. THE ARTICLE, WHICH IS SIGNED BY THE ABC CORRESPONDENT, PABLO SEBASTIAN, MAY IN FACT HAVE BEEN BASED ON INFORMATION FROM THE SPANISH AMBASSADOR, BUT IT IS ATTRIBUTED BY THE AUTHOR SIMPLY TO DIPLOMATIC SOURCES CLOSE TO THE SEAT OF THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE IN BRUSSELS. WHAT IS SAID GOES WELL BEYOND WHAT WE UNDERSTAND TO BE ACTUALLY OCCURRING.

2. THE MORE INTERESTING EXCERPTS ARE:

-"SPAIN AND NATO ARE PROCEEDING TO A STUDY AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON THE MILITARY SITUATION OF BOTH PARTIES."

-"THERE IS BEING OPENED BETWEEN SPAIN AND NATO SEMIOFFICIALLY

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AND OUTSIDE THE INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE A PERIOD OF EXCHANGE OF

INFORMATION ON THE SPAIN/NATO QUESTION WHICH WILL TREAT ESSENTIALLY THE SPANISH MILITARY SECTOR AND THE POLITICAL, MILITARY AND OPERATIONAL REALITY OF THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE, ON THE BASIS OF 'SIMPLE INFORMATION' WHICH EXCLUDES ANY POLITICAL OBLIGATION ON EITHER SIDE..."

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-"...THIS INITIATIVE, WHICH AROSE FROM AN INTENSE DIPLOMATIC EFFORT ON ALL SIDES IN WHICH THE SPANISH EMBASSY IN BELGIUM UNDER THE MARQUIS DE NERVA PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE..."

-"...THIS IS A STEP OF GREAT SIGNIFICANCE WHICH CONFIRMS FOR US THE IDEA THAT AT MILITARY LEVELS OF THE 15 ATLANTIC COUNTRIES THERE ALREADY EXISTS FULL UNANIMITY ON THE 'DESIRE FOR IMMEDIATE INCORPORATION OF SPAIN INTO NATO.' ON THE POLITICAL SIDE, THESE DESIRES CONCERNING WHICH SPAIN HAS NOT YET HAD ANYTHING TO SAY APPEAR DIMINISHED BY THE TRADITIONAL VETO OF DENMARK, THE NETHERLANDS AND NORWAY AND A CERTAIN RESERVE ON THE PART OF BELGIUM."

-"IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT THE UNITED STATES IS THE FIRST SUPPORTER OF THE IDEA OF SPANISH MEMBERSHIP IN NATO AND SURELY OF THE LAUNCHING OF THIS PARTICULAR INITIATIVE..."

-"ALL THIS IS POSSIBLE, WITHOUT ANY DOUBT, BECAUSE OF THE NEW POLITICAL SITUATION IN SPAIN..."

-"...IT CONSTITUTES A POLITICAL FACT MORE SIGNIFICANT FOR NATO THAN FOR SPAIN...THE GOVT OF SPAIN AND THE SPANISH PEOPLE HAVE NEVER THUS FAR FORMALLY EXPRESSED A POSITION ON THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE..."

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